STD Facilities in all Exchanges of Bihar

1374. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the telephone exchanges in the State of Bihar have not been connected with STD facilitise;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to link all the telephone exchanges of the State with STD facilities in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out 659 telephone exchanges, 260 have been connected with STD facilities.

(c) It is proposed to link all the telephone exchanges with STD facility during 8th Plan period subject to availability of resources such as land, building and equipment.

Mail Delivery in large Towns and Metropolitan Cities

1375. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delivery of mail to the addressees or corporate offices and apartments in high rise buildings is posing serious problems for postmen in large towns and metropolitan cities in the country; and

(b) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Postmen do experience difficulty in delivery of mail to addressees in the upper floors of high rise buildings.

(b) In May 1991, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 21(3) of the Indian Post Office Act, the Director General had issued an Order called 'Delivery of Mail Order, 1991' which requires all addressees in multi-storeyed buildings other than these residing in the ground floor to provide mail boxes at the ground floor for delivery of un-registered mail addressed to them.

Subsequently, in order to give reasonable time for implementation, the date of effect of the order was postponed to 1-1-1992.

In so far as Bombay city is concerned, in compliance with the direction given by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, a fresh decision is to be taken after consideration of all the matters relevant to the said Delivery of Mail Order.

Telephone Facilities in Maharashtra and Gujarat

1376. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the targets fixed by Government for providing telephone facilities in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the percentage of targets achieved so far in these States;

(c) the ratio of population on the basis of which targets have been fixed for providing telephone connections in urban and rural areas; and

(d) what is the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connectons in the major of these two States as on date and by when telephone connections are likely to be provided to all these persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Eighth Plan envisages addition of 16.70 lakh and 6.30 lakh new telephone connections in the state of Maharashtra (including MTNL Bombay) and Gujarat respectively during the plan pesiod.